

## 2021 PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE DAY PROCLAMATION

Council Sponsor: Lynn Griesemer

**WHEREAS**, Christopher Columbus arrived in Puerto Rico on November 19, 1493, where he encountered the Taíno Indians, the indigenous people of the land; and

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico was colonized by Juan Ponce De Leon and his crew from Spain in 1508; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 23, 1868, Puerto Rico's pro-independence movement, frustrated with the lack of political and economic freedom and the continued repression on the island staged the Grito de Lares rebellion; and

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico became a possession of the United States of America as a result of the Spanish American War in 1898; and

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Ricans became citizens of the United States of America in 1917; and

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico has participated in the defense of the United States in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan; and

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico became the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1952; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the island of Puerto Rico have contributed much to the rich history of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Amherst of Puerto Rican descent have made many positive contributions to the Town and local community; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Amherst wish to express our support to the residents of Puerto Rico who are still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Maria four years ago.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Amherst Town Council, officially proclaim September 23, 2021 as Puerto Rican Heritage Day, and further recognizing this Proclamation by raising the Puerto Rican flag from September 23 to September 29, 2021 to help cultivate awareness for all residents of Amherst.

Voted this \_\_\_\_ day of September 2021.

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Lynn Griesemer,  
Amherst Town Council President